Revision of Allowances of Indian Embassy Staff in Moscow

1645. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate and quantum of different allowances admissible to Indian staff posted in Moscow in Indian mission there have been revised are proposed to be revised in the light of recent developments in the erstwhile USSR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) A proposal for the payment of full emoluments in hard currency is being processed in the light of recent developments.

Relations with Kuwait

1646. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his recent visit to Kuwait; and

(b) whether any agreement has been signed for recruitment of Indian labourers in Kuwait and whether India have the same kind of relations with them as we had before the Gulf War?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) My goodwill visit to Kuwait served to further strengthen the close and cordial bilateral relations that have long existed between India and Kuwait. It was agreed, *inter alia*, to establish a ministerial level joint Commission. It was also decided that we shall continue our cooperation to facilitate the employment of Indian nationals in Kuwait.

British request for allowing amenesty international to visit Punjab and Kashmir

1647. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Foreign Secretary during his visit to India recently requested that Amensty International be allowed to visit Punjab and Kashmir in dealing with allegations of human rights violations;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to seek the help of British Government to eradicate terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government's policy is to allow Amensty international to come Indian for private visits and for normal dialogue with the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government is strengthening its cooperation with Britain to combat terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. As part of this cooperation India and the UK have recently an Extradition Treaty and an Agreement concerning the investigation & prosecution of crime and the tracing, restraint and confiscation of the proceeds & instruments of crime (including crimes involving currency transfers) and terrorist funds, which are expected to be concluded shortly.